October 28, 2005

GREEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCAL/STATE BOARD FACILITIES HEARING REPORT AMENDMENT NO. 1

A public hearing was held at the Green County Middle School on October 27, 2005, at 6:00 P.M. (local time). The purpose of the public hearing was to propose an amended District Facility Plan developed by the Green County Local Planning Committee. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) voted 13-1 in favor of the proposed amended plan and the Board voted 3-1 to approve the amendment.

There were (20) individuals in attendance. Jim Frank, Finance Officer, served as the locally appointed hearing officer. Rosalind Curry, Marcy Goff, Lisa Fields, Marshall Lowe, Kevin Hudgins, C.W. Vanarsdale, Fay Davis, Kerry Judd, Lisa Wright, Jennifer Squires, Stephanie Edwards, Gerald Ford, Trent Davis, Sara Sluder, Jeannie Squires, Tammy Haines, Frankie Wright, Amanda Soto, Tim Sluder, Jaclyn Sluder, and Rhonda Judd were present.

COMMENTS

Superintendent Marshall Lowe called the public hearing to order. The hearing officer outlined the purpose of the hearing and the hearing procedures in accordance with 702 KAR 1:001. It was explained that those persons wishing to speak would be given the opportunity and that written statements would be accepted. It was also noted that all considerations would be made available to the Kentucky Board of Education via the hearing officer's report. The hearing officer read the proposed amendment to the District Facility Plan that includes: **changing the Plan of School Organization from P-K-5 to P-K-2 and 3-5, and the recommendation to demolish old Greensburg Elementary and use this site or other property adjacent to Board owned property in Greensburg to construct a new elementary school to accommodate grades 3-5.**

The floor was opened to those who wished to make public comment. Written statements from Liechar Hankes, Natasha Bishop, Doyle and Orvenice Bishop, Karen Rafferty, Justice (no last name given), and Devin Hankes were read by the hearing officer. All were opposed to the consolidation of Pierce and Summersville Elementary Schools stating smaller schools are more conducive to learning, have less violence, require less time on buses, and result in more parent involvement. The following individuals offered oral testimony: Jennifer Squires, C.W. Vanarsdale, Trent Davis, Rosalind Curry, Sara Sluder, Rhonda Judd, Lisa Wright, Amanda Soto, Stephanie Edwards, Faye Davis, and Tammy Haines. Issues addressed in general related to opposing consolidation or location of the new school and included: a concern for length of and cost of transportation, loss of academic performance, less individual attention, schools being less safe, more parent involvement in smaller schools, an additional transition for students, economic impact on the communities affected, concern for cost of demolition, and a recommendation to locate the new school in Summersville. A statement was also made concerning how LPC meetings were conducted, specifically if the hearing should have occurred after the LPC meeting. Audio recordings of the hearing and all comments noted are on file at the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Facilities Management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Amended District Facility Plan developed by the Green County Local Planning Committee and adopted by the Green County Board of Education be approved as the District Facility Plan for the Green County School District. A copy of the amended plan is attached.

Respectfully submitted, Reviewed by,

Jim Frank, Hearing Officer Timothy K. Lucas, KDE Facilities

Management